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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a document entitled "Position of Kazakhstan with regard to resolving the situation in Afghanistan" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (f) and 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Madina B. **Jarbussynova**

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

The position of Kazakhstan with regard to resolving the situation in Afghanistan (follow-up to the document entitled "The conceptual approaches of Kazakhstan to resolving the situation in Afghanistan" (A/55/916-S/2001/419), of 27 April 2001)

The way the situation in the world has been evolving in the aftermath of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America and the subsequent counter-terrorist operation launched by the United States and the international coalition in Afghanistan shows that the international community has entered a new stage in its development. International terrorism, in the form in which it was witnessed by the world in New York City and Washington, is a totally new and unexpected threat that looms over humanity.

Kazakhstan fully supports the view that it is necessary to find new and effective measures to counter international terrorism and believes that the time has come to take tough and uncompromising measures to root out that evil everywhere.

This concerns Afghanistan directly. The effective elimination of terrorists and their accomplices in that country will make it possible to continue to successfully combat this threat all over the world, while at the same time creating the necessary conditions for a comprehensive and long-term settlement of the Afghan crisis and the rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

I. Kazakhstan notes with satisfaction that the main ideas and tenets of its document entitled "The conceptual approaches of Kazakhstan to resolving the situation in Afghanistan" have been favourably received around the world and that they correspond to the positions and proposals of other States and are being put into practice.

It is gratifying to note that we have not erred in our approaches, and we are pleased to see that the international community has now proceeded to implement practically all of our recommendations, from political settlement to comprehensive measures of economic and humanitarian rehabilitation. **The fact that Afghanistan has finally become the focus of international attention fosters the hope that this long-suffering country will take the path of normal and civilized development. Moreover, we in Kazakhstan consider that Afghanistan, which is a reflection in miniature of many global and regional problems, can become a testing ground for the elaboration and testing of an effective formula for real partnership and confidence-building, not based on geopolitical ambitions and narrow national approaches. We believe that, without this, collective action in Afghanistan could prove futile.**

II. Kazakhstan welcomes the results of the United Nations-sponsored talks among Afghan parties in Bonn which, in our view, constituted a breakthrough in the process of intra-Afghan political settlement. It is very important to emphasize here that **the international community has reached a consensus understanding of the need for a comprehensive solution of the Afghan problem**.

We in Kazakhstan are pleased to note that all interested States and parties underline **the key role of the United Nations in the post-conflict rehabilitation of Afghanistan and the return of the Afghan people to a peaceful and constructive life**.

Kazakhstan reaffirms its position that the future of Afghanistan and its political structure are in the hands of the Afghans themselves. At the same time, it is clear that Afghan society, for objective and subjective reasons, currently lacks the human and material resources needed to solve all of its burning problems single-handedly. In this context, it is important for the participants in the peace process in Afghanistan to find, under the auspices of the United Nations, an acceptable formula for coexistence which can become the basis for the establishment of permanent governing structures and civil institutions and the creation in the country of an atmosphere of trust and friendship.

We are deeply convinced that **peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan should be carried out only under the auspices of the United Nations**, which will avert the renewed outbreak of civil war and make it possible to ensure public order and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to the starving Afghan people. We welcome Security Council resolution 1386 (2001), of 20 December 2001, and believe that the presence in Afghanistan of the International Security Assistance Force is designed to ensure the preservation of peace in Afghanistan and to create the conditions for its economic and social rehabilitation in close cooperation with the Afghan Interim Authority and Afghan society.

At the same time, Kazakhstan calls upon all interested States to refrain from underhanded manoeuvres, abandon their geopolitical ambitions and make efforts to preserve and build upon the positive results recently achieved in the Afghan settlement process.

III. In view of the fact that Afghanistan is on the verge of a humanitarian disaster and that millions of Afghans are threatened with death by starvation, Kazakhstan believes that along with completing the counter-terrorist operation, the international community should, first and foremost, make every effort to address this aspect of the Afghan problem. Yet it is also evident **that the international community must provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on a long-term basis, until a comprehensive plan for the country's economic recovery has been implemented**.

This plan should also take into account such factors as the fragmentation and weakening of Afghan society and the lack in Afghanistan of a sufficient number of qualified experts in different sectors and of the necessary economic, transport, productive and social infrastructure.

We welcome the efforts by the international community to convene various conferences on Afghanistan (in Bonn, Washington, Tokyo and elsewhere), which we are firmly convinced will not only help to reconcile the positions of the main social, political and religious forces in Afghan society as regards the future governing structures of the country, but also to identify the specific programmes and needs and the material and human resources required for the comprehensive social and economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan. Kazakhstan fully supports the actions taken in this regard by the United States, the Russian Federation, the countries of the

European Union, Japan, neighbouring States and other donor countries, and is ready to assist those efforts in every way.

At the same time, **a huge responsibility resides with the Afghan Interim Authority**, which must ensure the implementation of all aspects of the Bonn Agreement, preserve peace and create and develop conditions for the full-fledged rehabilitation of Afghanistan and its political and economic development. **Only if the Afghan Interim Authority and all Afghans assume this responsibility will the international community be able to assist Afghanistan effectively.**

IV. Kazakhstan proceeds from the assumption that after peace and order are established in Afghanistan, **the countries of the region must really feel secure**. Throughout the process of rehabilitation of the country, the international community should aim at **neutralizing the sources of new threats, such as drug and weapons trafficking, illegal migration and religious extremism.**

V. It is satisfying to note that Afghanistan is now the focus of attention of the international media, which should continue to play a central role in objectively covering events in and around Afghanistan. In this context we believe that, along with expert analysis and appraisals of the Afghan problem, it is necessary to highlight the actual development of the situation in Afghanistan and to report on the efforts made by the international community in Afghanistan and its long-term plans for the country's revival.

The media should focus on promoting an understanding on the part of world public opinion that the long-suffering people of Afghanistan have nothing to do with international terrorism, which has built a hornets' nest in that country against the will of the majority of Afghans. It is also important to clearly show the real difficulties and needs involved in the long-term social and economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

VI. Kazakhstan welcomes the official inauguration of the Afghan Interim Authority headed by Hamid Karzai. Aware of the complexity of the challenges facing Mr. Karzai and his colleagues, Kazakhstan wishes them courage, determination and success in the achievement of their objectives.

Kazakhstan is confident that the joint efforts of all interested parties and States can successfully solve the Afghan problem and can also eradicate international terrorism, which is trying to impose its rules and demands on the civilized world.

For its part, Kazakhstan stands ready to make a practical contribution to the coalition's action in Afghanistan, especially in its economic and humanitarian phase, and, in view of its proximity to Afghanistan, it offers:

- To supply food (grain, rice and meat), fuel, construction materials and other goods as part of the humanitarian aid mobilized by the donor community;
- To set up in its territory, under the auspices of the United Nations and the international coalition, forward-based humanitarian warehouses;
- To send its civilian specialists — doctors, teachers, builders, engineers, and so on — to Afghanistan;
- Although it does not have much experience, Kazakhstan is willing to consider participation by its peacekeeping battalion (Kazbat) in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in the post-conflict period;

- In the future, we could explore the integration of Afghanistan into the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), with agriculture as a priority area.

While addressing these specific proposals to the coalition partners, Kazakhstan also reaffirms its willingness to mediate in the settlement of the crisis in Afghanistan, many of whose citizens perceive Kazakhstan as a neutral State of the region, in the Afghan context.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Kazakhstan